FA request and JFK assassination records appeals Harold Weisberg 8/26/79
FBI scientific tests and subsequent litigation
Controlling what Hoover knew

In filing I came accross a copy of 62-109090-539 a copy of which I am certain I provided you in connection with earlier appeals, at least relating to the withholding of the records reflecting my alleged contact with Soviet nationals at that embassy.

On rereading it its infidelity to fact, for no apparent reason, strikes me.

I recall the matter very well because it was the first time I was able to get to the Archives after published reports about the AG's executive order transferring everything considered by the Commission to the Archives. I asked Johnson for the results of all the FBI's spectrographic analyses, he phoned Cortlandt Cunningham, who prepared this memo, Jevons to Conrad, and I was with Johnson when Cunningham called him back.

Monstrous trees from little acorns grow, like the subsequent litigation and what flowed from it.

There wasn't time for the Cunningham memo to be written and circulated and for him to receive a response. Moreover, I am certain, and not only from the end of the conversation that I heard, that he did not tell Johnson "the FBI cannot be of assistance to Weisberg in this matter." After all, the FBI's tests were considered by the Commission.

What Johnson told me Cunningham told him was the subsequent official LFBI line, impossible as it is -- that all the results were in the FBI lab record included in the cited report from Dallas (which sent the same thing back to Washington). By the time of the records in question, on and before 11/30/63, all the tests had not been performed.

Why the Director was misled by this polite we-told-him-to-go-to-hell version may not be apparent but he was misled. This is also true of Johnson's position and the nature of my request. Hoover's attention seems to have focused on the exhibits and evidence that Cunningham mentioned.